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In re Application of	:	
Story et al.	:	OFFICE OF PETITIONS
Application Number: 09/892211	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filing Date: 06/25/2001	:	
Attorney Docket Number:	:	
80293/33	:	

This is a decision on the petition filed on April 9, 2008, under 37 CFR 1.137(b),¹ to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned on August 20, 2006, for failure to file a timely submit a reply to the final Office action mailed on May 19, 2006, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. No extensions of the time for reply in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Notice of Abandonment was mailed on April 9, 2007.

Petitioner has filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and an amendment as the submission required under 37 CFR 1.114.

¹ Effective December 1, 1997, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) now provide that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

(1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continuing examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof. In an application, abandoned for failure to pay the publication fee, the required reply must include payment of the publication fee.

(2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

(3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Director may required additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

(4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay.² In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Receipt of the revocation and power of attorney and change of correspondence address filed on April 9, 2008 is acknowledged. All correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record. A Notice of acceptance of the power of attorney will be mailed under separate cover.

This application is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 2153 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3231.



Douglas I. Wood
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Office of Petitions

² See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1208 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997).